

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7116  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, GE  
SUBJECT: GDR PROTESTS WEST BERLIN "INTERFERENCE"  
IN THE HUEBNER CASE

REFS: (A) USBER 730 (NOTAL); (B) BERLIN 2413;  
(C) USBER 788

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) OF 8-9 APRIL CARRIES  
IN PLACE ON PAGE TWO USUALLY RESERVED FOR EDITORIAL  
AN ADN REPORT THAT THE GDR GOVERNMENT HAS PROTESTED  
TO THE WEST BERLIN SENAT ITS "INTERFERENCE IN THE  
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INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR" IN THE CASE OF NICO  
HUEBNER. THE REPORT STATES THAT DR. JOACHIM MITDANK,  
ON BEHALF OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT, PROTESTED TO GERHARD  
KUNZE, ON BEHALF OF THE SENAT, THE "PROVOCATIVE  
ATTEMPT" OF MAYOR STOBBE TO INTERFERE IN THE  
"SOVEREIGN JUDGMENT OF THE GDR." REJECTING THE  
MANNER IN WHICH THE HUEBNER CASE HAS BEEN HANDLED

IN WEST BERLIN AND THE ATTEMPT TO APPLY THE FOUR POWER AGREEMENT TO THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR (SIC), THE ARTICLE STATES THAT "THE ENTIRE AFFAIR ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTORIOUSLY FINANCED HATE CAMPAIGN AND BY INCREASING BORDER PROVOCATIONS, IS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT OF THE SENAT OF BERLIN (WEST) AND BURDENS THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND WEST BERLIN." THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT SUCH INTERFERENCE IS BAD FOR THE "POLITICAL CLIMATE" AND THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF WEST BERLIN AND ITS RESIDENTS AS WELL AS IN THE INTEREST OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT TO ABIDE BY THE "SPIRIT AND LETTER" OF THE AGREEMENTS TAKEN UNDER THE "FOUR POWER AGREEMENT ON WEST BERLIN." THEREFORE, THE SENAT SHOULD TURN AWAY FROM ITS "CONFRONTATION COURSE."

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE HUEBNER CASE HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE EAST GERMAN PRESS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE PROTEST AND THE REPORTING ON IT DO NOT DEAL WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE HUEBNER CASE OR OF HIS CLAIM TO EXEMPTION FROM GDR MILITARY SERVICE. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH HUEBNER IS MENTIONED BY NAME ONLY ONCE IN THE ARTICLE, WE ASSUME THAT INTERESTED EAST GERMAN READERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE BASIC FACTS OF THE CASE FROM WEST GERMAN AND WEST BERLIN TV AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RADIO BROADCASTS. IN OUR VIEW, THE GDR PROTEST IS A PREDICTABLE RESPONSE TO WESTERN INTEREST IN THIS CASE AND THE PROMINENT REPORTING OF THE PROTEST IN ND IS INTENDED TO GIVE PARTY MEMBERS AND OTHER EAST GERMANS THE OFFICIAL LINE TO FOLLOW. THE PROTEST AND ITS TREATMENT IN ND ARE YET A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE GDR'S EXISTING ATTITUDE ON THE NON-APPLICABILITY OF THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT TO EAST BERLIN. IT ALSO CONSTITUTES AT LEAST AN IMPLICIT WARNING THAT THE GDR'S RELATIONS WITH WEST BERLIN ARE TO A DEGREE DEPENDENT ON SENAT ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS THE "CAPITAL OF THE GDR." END COMMENT. BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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